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Programme planning documents for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme

Strategic Framework of the Statistics subprogramme for 2016-17

Prepared by the Secretariat

Summary

The note provides the Strategic Framework for the biennium 2016-2017 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistics subprogramme. It defines the objective of the subprogramme, expected accomplishments, performance measures, a strategy and external factors as well as the legislative mandates for its work. The Strategic Framework of the Statistics subprogramme has four main areas of work linked to the expected accomplishments:

- Streamlined international statistical work;
- Updated and newly developed standards and recommendations to enhance international comparability of statistics;
- Improved national capacities to implement international standards and recommendations in official statistics;
- Improved availability and increased use of statistics from the ECE database, in particular related to international development goals, gender equality, key socio-economic indicators and sustainable development in support of evidence-based policymaking in ECE member States.

The note is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians for approval. It was endorsed by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in October 2013.

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Objective of the Organization: To improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Streamlined international statistical work	(a) (i) Number of international organizations contributing to the statistical work of the Conference of European Statisticians and its subsidiary bodies *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 25 organizations Estimate 2014-2015: 25 organizations Target 2016-2017: 25 organizations (ii) Number of statistical areas reviewed in depth by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 5 areas Estimate 2014-2015: 5 areas Target 2016-2017: 5 areas
(b) Updated and newly developed standards and recommendations to enhance international comparability of statistics	(b) (i) Number of new or revised international statistical standards and recommendations developed with ECE contribution *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 6 new or revised standards and recommendations Estimate 2014-2015: 5 new or revised standards and recommendations Target 2016-2017: 5 new or revised standards and recommendations (ii) Number of statistical areas (according to the ECE Classification of Statistical Activities) to which ECE makes substantive methodological contributions *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 27 areas Estimate 2014-2015: 27 areas Target 2016-2017: 27 areas

(c) Improved national capacities to implement international standards and recommendations in official statistics	(c) (i) Number of countries with less developed statistical systems that implement recommendations from global assessments of national statistical systems in their strategies for statistical development *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 4 countries Estimate 2014-2015: 5 countries Target 2016-2017: 6 countries (ii) Percentage of national experts that express satisfaction with the relevance and quality of ECE advisory services, training courses and workshops *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 80 per cent Estimate 2014-2015: 85 per cent Target 2016-2017: 85 per cent
(d) Improved availability and increased use of statistics from the ECE database, in particular related to international development goals, gender equality, key socio-economic indicators and sustainable development in support of evidence-based policymaking in ECE member States	(d) (i) Number of downloads of statistical data from the ECE statistical database *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 500,000 downloads Estimate 2012-2013: 560,000 downloads Target 2016-2017: 600,000 downloads (ii) Percentage of users that express satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the ECE statistical database *Performance measures* 2012-2013: 80 per cent Estimate 2014-2015: 80 per cent Target 2016-2017: 80 per cent

I. Strategy

1. The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. The subprogramme aims to improve the quality, coverage and timeliness, as well as coherence of official statistics for evidence-based economic, social and environmental policymaking, and for assessing progress towards international development goals and sustainable development.

2. Coordinating international statistical activities in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. The strong involvement of national statistical organizations in setting priorities will ensure that the work focuses on addressing the special needs of countries of the region. Cooperation with the statistical services of other UN entities and international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings and working groups to develop standards and recommendations, and identify good practices.

3. The subprogramme will work on priorities identified by the ECE member States, with a special focus on measuring sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda; globalization; population, poverty and inequality; promoting modernisation of statistical production; and capacity building. The subprogramme will take into account the recent methodological and technological development in official statistics, including the geospatial information. The work will be undertaken in close cooperation with experts from ECE member States and international organizations in the form of expert groups that perform specific tasks within a set time frame. The work will result in the development of methodological and practical guidelines in statistics, including training materials which will be made available on the web.

4. The subprogramme will provide support and guidance to the ECE member States, particularly those with less developed statistical systems regarding existing United Nations standards and best practices and their implementation at the national level. To this end, the subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and provide advice on institutional frameworks of official statistics, for example, by conducting global assessments of national statistical systems. The advisory work will be demand-driven, focusing on areas where United Nations standards and recommendations exist, such as population censuses, international development goals, national accounts, prices, business statistics, gender disaggregated statistics, environmental indicators and modernising statistical production.

5. The subprogramme will collect and disseminate statistical information, including on progress towards the achievement of international development goals and gender equality. These statistics will be accessible to the public on the Internet. A quality framework will ensure the relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of dissemination. The data will help to identify priorities for improvement of the quality and comparability of official statistics.

II. External factors

6. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is a willingness to cooperate on the part of international statistical organizations, in particular the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as on the part of the national statistical organizations of ECE member countries, (b) resource

constraints would not hamper the participation of national statistical offices in international work nor impede the implementation of the resulting standards, (c) development work carried out by national statistical offices continues on key statistical domains, (d) resources are available in order to provide support for the national statistical organizations of countries with less developed statistical systems, (e) data needed for the ECE statistical database are made available by the national and international statistical organizations free of charge, and the technological infrastructure is sufficient for databases and web dissemination.

III. Legislative mandates

A. General Assembly resolutions

65/170	International migration and development
65/187	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
65/234	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014
66/127	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
66/130	Women and political participation
66/132	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
66/288	The future we want
67/209	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
67/214	Harmony with Nature
67/230	The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order

B. Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2005/6	Strengthening statistical capacity
2011/5	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women
2012/2	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education
2013/28	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2013/37	Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development

2013/16	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2013/21	Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

C. Economic Commission for Europe decisions

C (47)	The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe
A (64)	The work of the Economic Commission for Europe
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

D. United Nations Statistical Commission decisions

38/111	Statistical capacity-building
39/112	Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata
40/105	National accounts
40/110	Gender statistics
41/104	Statistics of international trade in services
41/112	Development indicators
42/102	Gender statistics
42/103	National accounts
42/104	Environmental-economic accounting
42/107	Short-term economic indicators
42/111	Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
43/101	Programme review: population and housing censuses
43/110	National quality assurance frameworks
43/115	Regional statistical development in Europe
44/101	Programme review: developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems
44/103	National accounts
44/105	Environment statistics
44/111	Health statistics